

MEETING MINUTES
HARBOUR HEIGHTS WATERWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 21, 2013
7:00 PM

This was a joint meeting with the Harbour Heights Waterways Maintenance Association.

Attendees: Joe Fleming, Ken Wangler, Lee Phillips, Margaret Scott, Eric Frohn
Unexcused Absence: Larry Rand
County Staff: Absent
Guest: Commissioner Ken Doherty

The MSBU Advisory Board's Portion of the meeting was as follows:

Mr. Fleming explained the bathymetric survey, which showed an accumulation of 1800 cubic yards of spoil between June of 2010 and July of 2012 or approximately 900 cubic yards per year.

He then gave this brief history. In March of 2010, the MSBU Advisory Board voted to keep the assessment at \$400/ERU/Yr until our dredging loan was paid off and we had a survey showing the spoil accumulation over a 1 year period following the dredge. This would last for 1 or 2 years, at which time we could set a lower stable assessment that the property owners could budget for. The County charged us \$7,537 because of untimely payment by the finance dept.

The following year, March of 2011, the Board proposed a \$400 assessment rate because we still had not received the bathymetric survey results. The assessment rate and possible outcomes were discussed in detail with input from staff. Several guests asked for a lower rate and after discussion, the Board reduced the proposed assessment by 25% to \$300/ERU for the next year. Any additional funds collected are to be placed in a reserve for future dredging and reported as a separate line item on the Budget.

Between April 1, 2011 & April 1 2012, the MSBU Board was notified by Public Works that our assessment would be set at \$100. This was done without our input. The Board moved to set the recommended assessment at \$300.00 per ERU. The rate stayed at \$100 instead of the \$300 requested. In July, the MSBU Board was told that the assessment had to be at \$100 / ERU, because we did not have an established maintenance plan. The MSBU Board voted to go on record requesting an assessment at \$300/ERU.

Last October, Chuck Mopps, the project engineer, explained the bathymetric survey of the canals. The estimated cost of a maintenance dredge every 3 years is \$75,000; this does not include engineering and internal county costs. There would be additional administrative costs. Yearly survey costs would be approximately \$20,000. The Board moved to have a bathymetric survey performed each year to let us know if we have any problem areas and to protect us in case of a disastrous storm. The Board then moved to establish a Canal Maintenance Program (CMP) that would include a yearly survey and a maintenance dredge every three years at an annual assessment of \$200 per ERU. This would cover all dredging costs plus county engineering and administration. In December, we schedule a survey for October (next fiscal year) followed by a maintenance dredge early in 2014.

On February 6, 2013, we received the following email from the Public Works Staff:

Based on our review of the revenue and expense in Harbour Heights waterway in 2014 and 2015 there is insufficient funds to perform the work plan Chuck proposed which would have included dredging in either 2014 or 2015. Even with the rate increase in 2014 there is not enough revenue to provide for this work.

I have adjusted the CIP to allow for pre-hurricane surveys in both 2014 and 2015 and we'll have to see if there is enough saved up in 2016 to do any work. See attached proposed CIP, which is based on available funding.

If you look at the Financial in the 2015 budget file you can see that even after 2 years of assessing at the higher rate there is only about \$93,000 at the end of 2015.

The project engineer, Mr. Mopps, recommended we change our assessment from \$200 to \$400/ERU/yr. for the next 2 years. This would allow us to stay on schedule with the CMP without accumulating any additional spoils and increasing our costs.

New business:

Mr. Phillips moved to assess at \$400/yr/ERU for next 2 years; second by Mr. Wangler. A lengthy discussion followed. The vote by Canal Association members was clouded by confusion in establishing how many ERUs each member had; but generally it seemed split for and against. The MSBU Board voted as follows Mr. Wangler and Mr. Phillips FOR; Ms. Scott and Mr. Frohn AGAINST. Mr. Fleming voted FOR and **the motion carried.**

Mr. Fleming advised that brush cutting by the MSBU was not feasible and should be done by the Canal Association.

To do list: Commissioner Ken Doherty to find out if the assessments can be reduced after 1 year.
Mr. Fleming to set meeting date to approve minutes and bring County Staff up to date.

MSBU Portion of the Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

J. Fleming